Free medicines to patients

1934. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government supplies medicines and other consumables to Government run hospitals in the country for issue to the needy patients free of cost;

(b) if so, the allocations made, sanctioned and spent for the purpose during the last three years, year-wise and State-wise;

(c) whether it is a fact that medicines and other consumables particularly expensive life saving drugs supplied to the hospitals have been diverted for sale in the open market;

(d) if so, the details with revenue implication; and

(e) the action taken or proposed to be taken to prevent such incidents in future?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMDOSS): (a) Yes, Sir. In so far as major Central Government Hospitals, namely, Dr. R.M.L. Hospital, Safdarjung Hospital and LHMC and its associated hospitals, JIPMER, Pondicherry, PGI, Chandigarh are concerned, all the medicines and other consumables as per hospitals formulary, are provided to the patients free of cost.

So far as the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) is concerned, all life saving emergency medicines and surgical items as per Institute's formulary, are issued to all the patients irrespective of their social and economic status. Certain essential drugs which are stocked in the Institute in limited quantity are issued only to those patients who cannot afford to buy such medicines. Patients admitted in private wards are however required to buy the medicines (Other than life saving/emergency medicines) themselves. However, costly medicines, nutritional supplement and high cost surgical disposable etc. are required to be procured by the patients from their sources. For poor and indigent patient there is provision for financial help from Hospital Poor Patient's Fund; and National Illness Assistance Fund etc.

(b) No separate budget allocation for medicines and consumables are

made in Government Hospitals and expenditure on medicines etc. are incurred from the total budget allocation of the respective hospitals.

(c) to (e) No incidence of mis-appropriation of medicines and other consumables particularly expensive life saving drugs in the Central Government Hospitals, has come to the notice.

The All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) has also informed that all medicines and consumables are issued to user areas against proper indent duly stamped as "AIIMS Supply. Not for Sale" and all precautions are observed at the level of Hospital Stores to prevent any pilferage.

Legislation to ban smoking

1935. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have framed laws for imposing ban on smoking with aggressive IEC campaign in India;

(b) if so, the details in this regard;

(c) whether Government propose to impose high level of 'cigarette tax' for funding anti-smoking campaign, research and health care; and

(d) if so, the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKALAKSHMI): (a) and (b) The Government of India enacted The Cigarettes and other Tobacco products (Prohibition of Advertisement and Regulation of Trade and Commerce, Production, Supply and Distribution) Act, 2003' which, *inter alia,* contains provision which bans smoking in public places. Various steps are taken through electronic, print and other media to increase awareness among members of the civil society about the ill effects of tobacco use and urgent need to quit the habit.

(c) and (d) The Government has a proposal which envisages increase in the rate of duty on cigarettes by about 10 per cent, during the year 2005-06 to finance the National Rural Health Mission.